

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission

RE: GN Docket #09-191

445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

January 11, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski, Commissioners Baker, Clyburn, Copps and McDowell:

The Illinois Business Roundtable draws on the insights and expertise of Illinois' leading Chief Executive Officers to study, make recommendations and shape the most critical policies facing Illinois. We are particularly concerned with the proposed Internet regulations currently before the Commission, also known as "net neutrality," and the impact it will have on the businesses and citizens of Illinois.

Increasing the regulatory environment around the Internet would have potentially harmful consequences for our state and national economies. Many of Illinois' top companies depend on the Internet to perform functions as simple as sending an e-mail, or as complex as coordinating the distribution of goods and services across the globe. Executing these functions requires a reliable network, where service operators have the flexibility to identify and resolve data traffic issues before they impact companies. The Internet is a shared resource, and those who manage it should be able to address problems so that the majority of users will not be affected by disruptions caused by a small number of users.

In addition to economic growth, a key focus area for the Roundtable is education policy. The Internet has transformed the way we live, learn, and work. Promoting increased access to broadband technology will give students the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond. In order to improve access, we need policies that support investment in broadband infrastructure.

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The uncertainty that these regulations would create could deter further investment in broadband deployment, limiting access to some of the most underserved communities in the United States.

We hope that you will consider our views as you continue examining proposed Internet regulations, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey D. Mays". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a distinct "M" at the end.

Jeffrey D. Mays, President
Illinois Business Roundtable